THE
British Packet,
AND
ARGENTINE NEWS.

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No. 102.] BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1828. [Vol. 2.

BUENOS AYRES.

It will be seen by our Marine list that the Deputies to treat for Peace have sailed in the Redpole Packet for Rio Janeiro. It was reported that they were to proceed thither in the sloop of war *Heron*, and many began to have their misgivings from the mischiefs she formerly occasioned in this quarter; especially as the Dictionary (not Johnson's,) absolutely states the Heron to be a *bird of prey:* whereas the Redpole is noted as being an innocent and a very peaceable bird. The embarkation was conducted in Republican simplicity: a few friends attended the Deputies to the beach—no salutes of cannon, either from the shore or on board; *n'importe*, the less of ceremony the better, if their mission prove but successful. Buenos Ayres will soon be inundated with *on dits:* one day peace, the next war; but as the spirit of speculation is not so great as heretofore, the pernicious effect will be less.

The Marine office and the beach have been during the week in continual bustle, preparing for active warfare, and engaging seamen. The appeal of Admiral Brown has had the desired effect, and the subscriptions are considerable; all parties are united upon this point, and the newspapers of Buenes Ayres contain some excellent articles on the subject, in which the devoted bravery and patriotism of the Admiral are alluded to in very energetic language.

The Brazilians continue to carry on the war quite in the defensive style, suffering their enemy's army to occupy one of their richest Provinces, without an effort to drive them out, or evincing the least disposition to fight. The Emperor promised his subjects something very different to this two years since, when it was said that 20,000 choice troops were ready to march, and to set at nought all opposition. The only weapon which he can wield, is the blockade: once destroy that, and the war upon land would be of little import. The Brazilian Government have founded great expectations upon the political disputes here; this will afford them but trifling aid, so powerful and unanimous is the feeling upon the justice of the war.

The annual report of the Vaccine establishment in Buenos Ayres has been published: it is signed by the Administrador, Dr. Juan Madera; the zeal evinced by this gentleman in the important office he sustains, we have often heard greatly eulogized. The following are some extracts from the report:—

"The Vaccine Institution continues very effective, and its progress is every day more sensibly felt, in the augmentation of the population, and the improvement in the appearance of the inhabitants of this country. It has been performed upon the same plan as in former years, and the efficacy of this admirable preservative has now produced so strong a conviction, that none doubt its happy results; it increases every year, and is received with the greatest confidence by all classes of society. The number vaccinated in this city during the year, amounts to 2,328, and in the country to 963, total 3,291, of both sexes and various ages. For four successive years the small pock had disappeared here, until the month of May in the present year, when it made its appearance upon a man from the country, who was in the hospital, and who, doubtless, transmitted the contagion to others in this city; it has however ceased, and the number infected amounted to about 30, which small portion in so great a population, is an evident proof of the efficacy and power of this specific. As soon as the directors were informed that this fatal disease existed in the Oriental Province, and in that of Cordova, they announced in the public papers of the capital the facility which existed of communication and correspondence, urging those who had not been vaccinated, of the danger they incurred, and in order to afford convenience to a greater number of persons, appointed two days in the week for attendance: this annunciation produced the desired effect; at the same time, the Government was apprized of the necessity of preventing the infected from having commucation with other patients in the hospital, and it immediately appropriated another house in a distant part of the town, using every precaution: those remaining in the hospital were vaccinated, and thus the disease entirely ceased. 300 packages of vaccine matter were sent to the interior Provinces the moment it was called for. The Royal Jennerian Society of London has sent to this establishment, the annual account of its labours, from which it appears, that the propogation of Vaccination extends to the greater part of the civilized world. Dr. Don Juan Gil, Charge d' Affaires from the Republic to the Court of London, and honorary member of the Society, has sent to Buenos Ayres various packages, containing vaccine matter."

The report concludes in the following terms:—"I beg leave to state to the Secretary of Government, that, while the Bishops of France are occupied in sending circulars to their flocks, to induce them to receive this preservative, scarcely does the small pock appear in this part of the world, than the inhabitants crowd to secure themselves from it by vaccination, and receive it with confidence and gratitude.

We believe that Doctor Segurola was the first who publicly practised Vaccination in this city. In the country considerable prejudice still exists against it, and we are told that the Justices of Peace are often obliged to enforce its adoption.

Don Francisco Alvarez, a respectable shopkeeper of this city, having been missing for some days, advertisements were inserted in the newspapers, offering a large reward to those who could give information respecting him, hinting the fear that he had been assassinated. Two persons were arrested on suspicion; the body has not however, been found; property in ready money was taken from the house. This affair has caused considerable sensation, unaccustomed as we have been, thank Heaven! to such atrocities.

The lottery for the benefit of the widows of the sailors and soldiers of this Republic, which ought to have been drawn on the 9th, but deferred on account of the rain, took place on the 13th inst. in the Plaza.

On Sunday and Monday morning last, the band of the regiment of *Cazadores* performed arias and marches upon the Alameda, and afterwards paraded through the streets, preceded by flags, &c. for the purpose of enlisting seamen for the Squadron. A small cannon placed opposite the Adjutant of the Port's office was fired at intervals.

The editor of the *Hijo Menor del Diablo Rosado*, has been sentenced to four months imprisonment, or to pay a fine of 500 dollars, for a libel upon a Schoolmistress of the *Benevolent Society*.

Col. Forbes, Charge d'Affaires from the United States of North America to this Republic, attended the marriage ceremony of Capt. J. H. Coe, with Doña Trinidad Balcarce, and acted as father to the bridegroom.

Letters from Bolivia state, that the Provinces which formerly belonged to this country, have expressed a wish to be again united to it.

The Mendoza newspaper, *Aleja*, contains a report that Colonel Lopez has collected some troops in the neighbourhood of Tucuman, with the intention of ejecting the authorities from that city.

Persons from Monte Video report, that Lieut. Lockhart, late of the Brazilian frigate Nitchteroy, was killed by shot from the battery at Ensenada, at the time Norton lost his arm. Wilson has command of the brig *Asunto*, and Browning of the schooner *Shillelagh*; both of these vessels now compose part of the blockading Squadron.

The 4th of July was celebrated at the port of the Salado with considerable eclat: the vessels in the harbour hoisted their colours: the flags of this Republic, North America, British, and other nations, floated in conjunction; salutes were fired at sunrise, mid day, and sunset. As the Salado cannot yet put forth such Hotels as Faunch's, Washington, Palmer's, Richmond's. City, and others, too numerous to mention, and which are so renowned in this city, an excellent dinner was provided on board the American brig *Ant*, and her commander, Captain Elwell, presided on the occasion. The toasts were numerous, appropriate, and drank with enthusiasm. The following were among the bumper toasts:

Our country.—*Three cheers and one gun.*

The President of the United States.

Don Manuel Dorrego, Governor of the Province.

The Navy of the Republic, and Admiral Brown.

The Navy of the United States.

Commodore Biddle, the American Commander on this station.

Honourable Jno. M. Forbes, our Charge d'Affaires.

The Fair Sex of Buenos Ayres.

Toasts given by Individuals.

By the President.—Home, with all its comforts.

By the Vice President.—The United States of North America: may she ever prove a faithful and true friend, and a dangerous enemy.

By Captain Love.—Always Peace between England and North America.

By Capt. Grenfell.—The Pillars of a Republican Government: knowledge and virtue.

Other toasts followed, and when the President retired, the following toast was drank, "Our President: his health and happiness." The company separated at 7 in the evening, previously joining hands, and singing, *Auld Lang Syne.*

The liberal sentiments so conspicuous in the above meeting, are truly honourable to the parties: and were it generally followed would go far to suppress that *estrangement*, which ought not to exist between the British and North Americans. It is gratifying to observe that this hateful feeling is fast subsiding, at least, in this country.

July 12.—Wind N. Arrived, a Gun Boat, and lugger boat *Martin Garcia*, with a convoy from the Parana. At 1, P. M. embarked Don Juan Ramon Balcarce, D. Tomas Guido, D. F. Cavia, and other gentlemen attached to the Deputation, proceeding to Rio Janeiro in the Packet Redpole. At 2, the National brig of war *General Rondeau*, Capt. Coe, (late American brig *Allison*,) fired a salute of 21 guns, viz., 10 upon hauling down the American flag, and 11 on hoisting that of this Republic.

13.—Wind N. Sailed, British ship Packet ***Redpole***, Captain Bullock, for Monte Video, Rio Janeiro, and Falmouth. The opposite coast, and Colonia, in sight for several days past.

Arrived, 2 armed Whale Boats, convoying some balandras from the Parana.

14.—Wind N. hazy. Arrived, 6 sail of small craft from the Northward.

15.—Wind W. Sailed, Gun Boat No. 10, and convoy, for the Parana.

16.—Sailed, 12 sail of small craft to the Northward. In the afternoon, an American schooner in sight, N. E. beating towards the Outer Roads.

17.—Wind S. S. W. An American brig schooner, which sailed last night, put back. The American schooner seen yesterday, came into the Inner Roads, and proved to be the *Major Albers* Captain Evans, from Philadelphia 30th April, with a cargo of flour, rice, tobacco, &c. consigned to Zimmermann, Frazier, & Co.; has been 14 days in the river. Saw a corvette and a brig at anchor off Point Indio, and several vessels during the last 3 days; passed the blockading Squadron without impediment.

After a long absence 4 Brazilian vessels came in sight this morning, viz., 3 brigs and a schooner; about 8, A. M. the foremast brig (29th August) fired a gun, hoisted a flag of truce, and afterwards came to anchor in the Outer Roads; the others tacked, and were soon out of sight. A boat with a flag of truce was despatched to the brig, and came back, bringing on shore some officers of this Republic, who had been prisoners of war, and exchanged, or intended to be so, thirteen in all, viz., Messrs. H. Gwynn, Wm. Mendez, J. Brazier, P. Murgiondo, Antonio Richitelli, Wm. Hall, J. Stevenson, Jas. Atwell, Elordi, Sotelo, Pesoa, Doctor Phillips, and Jos. Barnes. Casal (a master's mate,) was likewise to have been sent, but the Brazilian Commodore recalled him at the time the flag of truce was about to sail.

Sailed, a Gun Boat with convoy, to the Northward. In the afternoon the Brazilian brig 29th August stood to the S. E.

18.—Wind N. E. Arrived. several small craft, boats &c. from the Parana and Banda Oriental. The blockading Squadron (including 3 ships) in sight, at anchor E.

Arrived this afternoon, a Gun Boat, and some small vessels, from the Northward.

Arrived, British sloop of war *Sapphire*, Capt. Henry Dundas, from Rio Janeiro and Monte Video.

19.—Wind N. thick fog. At 10 A. M. no boats from the Sapphire. It is reported that the Irish troops at Rio Janeiro mutinied, and got possession of some of the forts, but were suppressed. Forty of them killed, and the rest embarked to be sent to Europe.

The officers (late prisoners of war,) landed on Thursday, left Monte Video in the corvette *Batioja*, Capt. Broom, on Saturday last; saw the Packet *Redpole* the other side of the Ortiz Bank on Monday morning. A British brig from London, and two American vessels have lately arrived at Monte Video. It was reported at that place, that the National brig Privateer *Cacique* had had an action with the French brig of war *Alacrity*, off Cape Corrientes, and that the latter had been beaten off with considerable damage, and expected at Monte Video; the French captain was much censured. The *Cacique* is stated to have boarded a French merchant vessel, from round Cape Horn bound to Monte Video, and taken out some articles, Brazilian property: which led to the rencontre with the French man of war. It is not, however, believed here, as the *Cacique* had positive orders to proceed to Patagonia, and if possible, to avoid speaking any vessel.

The schooner of war *Sarandi*, Capt. Chalmers, arrived at the Salado on the 16th inst. having damaged her foremast; parted company with the brig of war *Federal*, Com. Bynon, on the 22d of June off St. Sebastian's, at which time had taken a zumaca; subsequently the Sarandi has taken a brig with 480 slaves, ivory, and wax, sent into Patagonia; a zumaca with yerba, rice, and boards, to Bahia Blanca; a launch with coffee, &c. sunk, after taking out the cargo; and a zumaca with hides and beef, given to the prisoners.

Lieut. Sotelo, late prisoner of war, and who was landed on Thursday from the Brazilian flag of truce, immediately proceeded for Las Vacas. He had been captured under the following circumstances: having arrived at Las Vacas from the army, and taken his passage for Buenos Ayres in a whale boat, commanded by a Portuguese, a privateer boat came in sight, from which escape might easily have been effected: instead of which the Portuguese waited for the privateer; it is said they carry on a trade of this nature, and receive money for each officer captured.

The mail boat from the Banda Oriental, was captured on Thursday at 12 o'clock, by a Brazilian privateer whale boat, close to Martin Garcia; some guns were fired at her without effect. The captured boat had several passengers, among them Col. Aguirre, with despatches from the army.

To the Editor of the British Packet

SIR,—When I first addressed you, relative to the population of this city, I did not expect to run my head against so learned an antagonist, as the one who, under the name of *Investigator*, has attacked my poor attempt; he thinks that in learning he has not got a giant to deal with, and that unless I have read all Necker's works, and other authors, who have treated upon the subect of population, I had no right to doubt his premises, and because I have presumptuously attempted to do so, he gets quite warm upon the matter. I will candidly avow, that although personally acquainted with some of the modern writers upon the subject, I have not read much of their works, and shall therefore leave to *Investigator* all the benefit of such valuable assistants, informing him that I would not pin my faith either upon Mr. Godwin or Mr. Malthus, the two great British authors to which he refers; I believe that Mr. Godwin, by the publication of his work on *Political Justice*, gave occasion to Mr. Malthus's *Essay*; Mr. Godwin has noticed this *Essay* in several publications: in one of which he observes, "The general doctrine of the *Essay on Population* is so clear, and rests on such *irresistible evidence*, that this circumstance, together with its novel and unexpected tenor, is apt to hurry away the mind, and take from us all power of expostulation and distinction." Now the general principle of Mr. Malthus is, that the human race have the power of doubling its numbers by procreation in every 25 years.

The above extract from Mr. Godwin's work, published in 1801, acquiesced in this supposition, but 20 years afterwards he comes forward, and endeavours to overturn all Mr. Malthus's reasoning, and says, "It remains to this day a problem whether the number of our species can be increased;" and in another place, speaking of the rapid increase of population in North America, "The question between us is, the cause of the increase: Mr. Malthus says, it has been repeatedly ascertained to be from procreation only: I say the cause is emigration." Which of these publications does *Investigator* wish me to rely upon? really, seeing that great men differ so widely, it is no wonder we little men cannot agree; we both found our data upon some census: mine are those taken in Great Britain in 1811 and 1821, and perhaps I am the only ignorant reader of the *Brtish Packet* who

cannot comprehend when the famous census of the three Generalities of France was taken: where it was recorded I never asked; no one is obliged to credit the calculations of others, when they are against facts and common sense, how ever learned the party may be. If *Investigator*, instead of trying to ridicule me for not being acquainted with the writings of every author upon the subject, had explained by figures the correctness of his data, (figures are shocking tell tales against false premises, and their language universal: he might have given us French figures in an English paper, they would have been easily understood by simple English readers,) it would have been more to the point. He has however, allowed his anger to get the better of his recollection, and charges me with swerving from the truth in my reply, and endeavouring to mislead the public, in taking the number of 28 to multiply the amount of births; I deny the charge:—as his paper clearly says, that for such cities as Paris, Amsterdam, or London, the Statesticians of England and France ascertained, by several comparisons at different periods, that the proportion nearest the truth, was that of 1 to 28; now I used the number 28 only for the population of London, but *Investigator*, to allow for the excess of the female population in Buenos Ayres, adds 2 to the 28, which he allotted for such cities as Paris, Amsterdam, and London, and multiplies the births in this city by 30. If I had taken the number 28 to do so, I should have been liable to his charge; but I fairly took his own data; I did not pretend to say my data was the more correct, I left that to the judgment of the public, if they thought it worth inquiring about, especially after *Investigator* had given such unlearned men as myself the answers to the questions which I took the liberty of putting to him. *Investigator* is very facetious upon my guessing at the amount of the population of the parishes of St. Mary la bonne and Pancras, but having attended Committees of the House of Commons, when that subject has been under discussion, I ought to know something about it; however, he shall have his wish: I will suppose his data for London to be 30 to 1 birth: I will allow him 200,000, instead of 150.000, for the parishes in question, and the result will be 27 679×30, leaving only 830,370, while the total appears to be, after deducting the 200,000 for the two parishes, 1,153,209; making an error in *Investigator's* data, or in the census taken, of 322,839. Which of the two is more likely to be correct, I shall not pretend to decide, at any rate I should have more confidence in the census as taken in Great Britain, than of the three Generalities of France: I am not aware when that was taken, *Investigator* keeps all his knowledge to himself, and the books to which he refers me, are not within my reach.

J. B.

THEATRE.

The opera of the Barber of Seville was performed on the 11th inst. in a very effective manner; its soft and fascinating music clings to the memory in preference perhaps, to more scientific productions. Doña Angelita warbled with her accustomed sweetness, and gave a good idea of a little artful girl *over head and ears in love.* Rosquellas is an excellent *Almaviva*; and Vacani, what can we say of him? no theatre surely can boast a *Figaro* so talented: his fine person, voice, and comic ability, all combine to render him the *Buffo of Buffos*, a worthy successor to the gifted Naldi;—nay start not, gentlemen critics of the London Opera, should a British Packet by chance reach your hands, and you read this assertion! Buenos Ayres can put forth musical *stars* of the first order, and we would endeavour to convince you of this, if we again visit your domain. But Mr. Vacani, you was very frolicksome the other evening, you nearly thrust poor Don Basilio into the lower boxes, and afterwards knocked him down, all of which the little rogue took in pure civility. The orchestra and chorusses on this evening merit encomiums; the audience was elegant and numerous; this opera never tires. Some of the lovely deserters noticed in our last, were in the boxes, very opportune to prevent our placing the dreadful letter R against their names. Buenos Ayres ought to have a better Theatre to receive the brilliant audiences which so often grace it; propositions, report states, have been made to the Government for their approbation to build one.

On 13th, the comedy of *El Viejo y la Niña*; in which Culebras performed well.——On 14th, for the benefit of Doña Antonina, the play of *Las Minas de Polonia*, and the mountebank farce of *Los Caldereros*; to a very full house, (the Governor and suite were in the State box.) A bat (*marciégaló*) intruded itself, fluttered round the house, and disappeared, having interrupted the performance for some minutes, causing various surmises as to the visit of this *bird of night.*——On the 15th, *Casualidad contra el Ciudado.* The opera of *La Italiana* was to have been performed on the 16th, but deferred from the illness of Señora Ricciolini.——On 17th, *La Condesa de Castilla.*

La Vestale has been rehearsed, and the performance is to take place it is said, next week: part of the music is very pretty, particularly in the marches and chorusses. [We insert again the plot of this opera, at the request of several of our readers.] The music was composed by V. Pucitta, in London, (an Italian.) and the opera came out for the first time, at the King's theatre in that metropolis, for the benefit of Madame Catalani on 3d May, 1610. The subjext is taken from an event that happened about the year of Rome 169, mentioned in Winkelmann's work entitled, "Monumenti antichi enedite," under the Consulate of Q. Fabius and Servilius Cornelius. *Georgia*, a vestal, (called in the opera *Julia*,) fell in love with *Lucinius*, of Sabine extraction, and admitted him in the Temple one night that she guarded the sacred fire. *Georgia* was buried alive, and *Lucinius* killed himself. To bring the opera to a happy issue, an exception is made to that horrid and inflexible law. The miracle of the flame descending from Heaven is one of those *denouements* which are generally permitted in dramas.

MR. WILLIAM BROWN

RESPECTFULLY informs his friends and the public, that his benefit will take place on Monday evening, the 21st inst. when will be represented a favourite Comedy; after which Mr. B. will give a variety of performances and feats, never before exhibited in this place.

*** For particulars, see bills of the day.

FOR SALE.

A QUANTITY of olive Fire Wood, considered to be the best for the use of families, and will be sold cheap. Inquire at Mr. Whitfield's Quinta.

PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doubloons, $47\frac{1}{2}$ á 48 dollars each.—The transactions in doubloons have been limited: several contracts have expired, and yet no advance has taken place; should the Packet remain out, they will probably decline a little.

Spanish Dollars, 180 á 185 per cent. premium.—Since the departure of the Packet few sales have been made.

Plata maquina, 175 á 180 per ct. premium.—Considerable inquiry for the interior.

Gold in bars, 20 quilates 17 á $17\frac{1}{2}$ rials per quilate.

Silver in do. 11 dineros, 16 á $16\frac{1}{2}$ rials per dinero.—Very few sales effected this week.

Six per cent Stock, $46\frac{1}{2}$ á 47.—Sellers at 47, and but few purchasers.

Exchange.—Nothing done since the sailing of the Redpole Packet.

Produce—Steady.

Hides, ox, prime matedero, 10 á $10\frac{1}{4}$ dollars per pesada.

Nutria Skins, 5 6 rs. á $6\frac{1}{4}$ dollars per dozen.

Chinchilla Skins, 16 á 18 dollars per do.—Considerable purchases have been made for the French market.

Manufactures and other Brazil produce.—Very little variation.

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